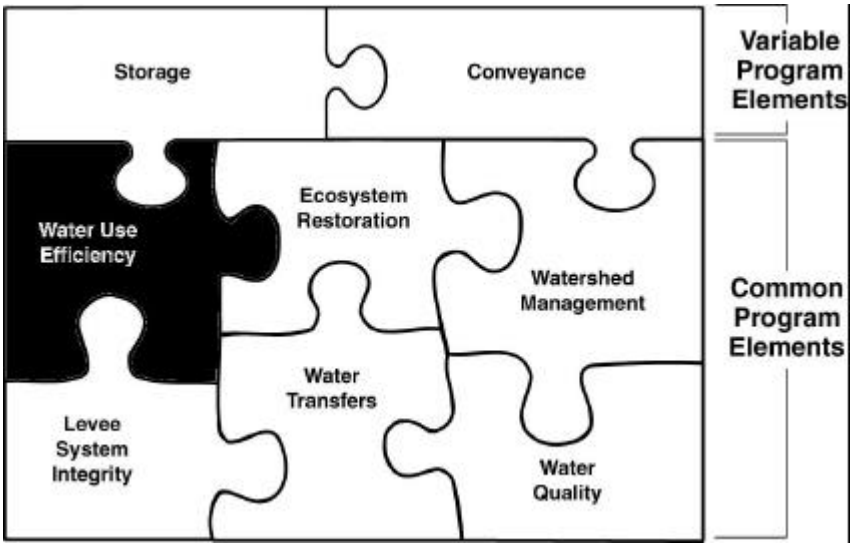
CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Water Use Efficiency Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and the public to ensure a healthy ecosystem, reliable water supplies, good quality water, and stable levees in California's Bay-Delta system. The Water Use Efficiency Program is one of six Program elements common to each of the three potential solutions CALFED has developed, represents a significant investment in the system and will greatly reduce system conflicts.



Water Use Efficiency is one of six Program elements common to each of the three potential solutions CALFED has developed.

The Problem

The California Bay-Delta system supplies water for drinking, agricultural, industrial, environmental and recreational uses. As overall water use has increased over the past several decades, so has competition among the different water uses. In addition, water flow and timing requirements established to protect certain fish and wildlife species that depend on freshwater flows have at times impacted the Delta's ability to meet water supply demands. As a result, the question of water availability has created economic uncertainty in water service areas and conflict over available supplies.

The Goal

To reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta system water supplies and current and future beneficial uses of water dependent on the Bay-Delta system.

Ways This Can Be Accomplished

The CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program builds upon the fact that implementation of efficiency measures occurs mostly at the local and regional levels. Conservation related actions include:

- Work with California Urban Conservation Council and the Agricultural Water Management Council to identify appropriate conservation measures
- Expand state and federal programs to provide sharply increased levels of planning, technical and financial assistance and develop new ways of providing assistance in the most effective manner
- Help urban water suppliers comply with the Urban Water Management Planning Act
- Help water suppliers and water users identify and implement water management measures that can yield multiple benefits
- Identify and implement practices to improve water management of wildlife refuges

Water recycling actions include:

- Help urban water agencies comply with the water recycling provisions in the Urban Water Management Planning Act
- Expand state and federal recycling programs in order to provide sharply increased levels of planning, technical and financial assistance, and develop new ways of providing assistance in the most effective manner
- Provide regional planning assistance that can increase opportunities for use of recycled water

Key Benefits

- Reduces demand for Delta exports and reduces related entrainment effects on fisheries
- Can help in timing of diversions for reduced entrainment effects on fisheries
- Could make water available for transfers and for environmental flows
- May improve overall Delta and tributary water quality
- Could reduce the total salt load in the San Joaquin Valley

Issues & Concerns

- Program does not include direct demand management actions
- Conservation implementation must include cost-effective measures from a statewide perspective
- Concern that the current program approach emphasizes incentives and markets more than a regulatory framework
- Processes to demonstrate efficient use need refinement, stakeholder consensus and continuing financial assistance
- Agricultural Water Management Council does not provide adequate assurance of efficient use
- Measurement of water deliveries and volumetric pricing are being considered as conditions of receiving new or transferred water
- Need strong support for programs to provide assistance with planning, financing, and implementation of local water use efficiency measures
- Concern about analysis that shows greater potential for urban water conservation than agricultural water conservation